

CW/VFM-39: Alexander Hays

- A battlefield report on the participation of Alexander Hays' division (3rd Division, 2nd Corps) at the Battle of Gettysburg. Ms. 5 pp.
- A transcript of the report. Tms. 5pp.

Summary:

Written by Col. C. H. Morgan, Chief of Staff. Dated 8 July 1863.

- Arrived along the Taneytown Rd. on 2 July
- Placed on a ridge parallel to the road and facing east. There is a stone wall at the crest of the hill and artillery on their flanks.
- Skirmishers sent forward
- A few sorties made toward enemy lines with members of the 12th New Jersey, 1st Delaware, and 14th Connecticut. All return with prisoners.
- 3rd brigade under Col. Willard of 125th NY withdrawn by the Major General commanding and placed on left. Willard is killed, as is his successor, Col. Elakin Sherrill of 126th NY.
 - Col. Dougall McDougall (111th NY) and Maj. Hugo Hildebrandt (39 NY) wounded
- “The loss of this brigade amounts to one half the casualties in the division.”
- The action of the 1st brigade under Col. S.S. Carroll warrants its own report. They are praised.
- 2nd brigade (Col. Thomas Smith's 1st Delaware Vols.) positioned along stone wall.
- Action of 2 July limited to sorties and sporadic artillery exchanges.
- 3 July begins much the same, with a lull from 11-2 PM.
- Anticipating engagement, Hays has a house and a barn burnt down.
- 2-4:30 PM, artillery barrage.
- Then the Confederates advance in a steady march—3 lines in formation and one of skirmishers. They are hit with artillery fire and, when they reach 100 yards, musket fire.
- 15 + battle flags captured, some lost in chaos.
- Lieutenant N.F. Potter, Ordnance officer, collects 2500 stand of arms and reports 1000 more left “for want of time to collect them.”
- No accurate prisoner count, estimate of 1500.
- Col. Smith of 2nd Brigade wounded by shell.
- Commends all officers.

- Also commended: Dr. Isaac Scott (medical director of division) and all assistants, Lieutenant N.F. Potter, Asst. Adjutant Gen. Capt. Geo. P. Corts, Aide Lieutenant David Shields (63 PA), Division Quartermaster Capt. Luddington, Commissary Officer Capt. Queen.
- 2nd Lieutenant E.J. Huston (111 NY) appointed acting Aide for ability in maintaining pickets.
- Casualties: 1285 killed, wounded, or missing.

Signed: Alexander Hays

Keywords: Union – East; Papers - Military; Army – Infantry; Soldier – Generals; Gettysburg - Battle

Location: Civil War Vertical File Manuscripts, Special Collections & College Archives, Musselman Library at Gettysburg College.

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